

## Miscellaneous.

## GOOD ADVICE.

BY J. W. LANG.

"Why don't you take the FARMER?"  
Said Jones to Smith, one day;  
"I think that you would like it well,  
And find that it would pay.  
I wouldn't be without it  
For twice its asking price;  
I think you'd find it just a fit—  
I find it very nice.  
Now, Smith, you are a man  
That takes to good counsel;  
So, go, subscribe at once—"  
Says Smith, "I think I will."

## FARM MACHINERY.

The two crying evils attendant upon this blessing(?) are, 1st, their cost; 2d, the wasteful carelessness of farmers in handling and preserving them. The cost is the united work of the manufacturer, the jobber and worst of all, the retailer. Unlike most other articles of traffic, farm implements have no fixed value, except in some instances, at the factory; when they leave that, the price fluctuates with the greed, the sharpness, the dishonesty of the seller, and the necessities or stupidity of the buyer. Now and then one can find a man engaged in the business, who has a reputation to sustain, has money invested in the trade, and deals fairly, as the world goes; but as generally conducted, the traffic in farm machinery is a reckless, illegitimate scramble after getting as much as possible by scalawags, for "there is no capital invested." They get a jobber to trust them to a car-load of tools, and away they shoot into some new place, where the country is settling rapidly, hire a room, daub the building and fences all over with fantastic pictures and advertisements, talk large and wise of farming, when they don't know wheat from white beans; daze the bumpkins with blarney about their particular machine, and when they induce them to buy, charge not only the extravagant commission allowed by the jobber, but from five to forty per cent. more on scalawag's own account, always clinching the trade with a "warrant," which is not worth a rush, and oftentimes pocketing what funds they can get from sales, and scuttling to some other country, to renew the "agricultural implement business." It is a fact that this last game is more or less expected by manufacturers and jobbers, and their prices to farmers for tools, are made to cover such contingencies. By such means, and others as bad, does this merciless combination eat into our hard won dollars, until some of our Western States are bankrupt in consequence. Perhaps this is severe talk, but it has one redeeming virtue, *it is all true* as every farm neighborhood in the Northwest can testify. There is a remedy for a major part of this, thanks to the spread of knowledge, and easy, rapid communication, all over our land. The antidote is—*buy only of manufacturers*, and enforce them by combined power to sell at fair rates. This is no myth, no mere expectation, but in many instances an accomplished fact. The Order known as Patrons of Husbandry has done wonders in this matter, the last year, and any united farming community can do the same. The difference between what we have paid and what we will pay in the future, if we are true to ourselves, as well as to others, will pay all our taxes, and keep us in go-to-meeting clothes, as long as we may need them. But enough this time.  
—Cor. Iowa Homestead.

The best "help"—Help yourself.

## Agricultural Items.

Cider is \$10 a barrel in the Pittsfield, Mass. market.

Boiled potatoes and boiled peas mashed together and fed with sour milk, it is said, will put flesh on hogs faster than corn.

Sumner Read of Denmark, N. Y., had his skull fractured a few days ago by the bursting of the band-wheel to his threshing machine.

The Misses Tanner of Lonoke, Ark., lately took the \$500 premium at the Little Rock fair for the best bale of cotton raised in the state.

A drove of about five hundred turkeys crossed the mountain from Arlington to Wardsboro, recently, and another was to follow soon.

Wisconsin is laying the unction of four-horned sheep to her soul, having "seen" the two-horned breeds of other states and gone two better.

A drove of 190 head of mixed cattle passed through Woodstock lately, on their way from Franklin County, Maine, to Pittsfield, Mass. A result of the short hay crop.

The citizens of Griffin, Ga., are trying to attract Irish emigration, and have started the report that it takes just one dozen of their potatoes to fill a bushel measure.

Hearth and Home says improved long-wooled sheep can never take the place of Merinos on extensive ranges of cheap land. It thinks they are the sheep for the grain-growing farmer, with clover in plenty, rather than the owners of land well adapted to dairying.

The Tribune says that if cattle are well fed with roots and some meal, the grubs that burrow under their hides and give them so much uneasiness will not grow; they are most annoying to poor animals who have only common hay, all of which is exactly contrary to the fact, as drovers well know.

E. Mussey, Esq., of Middlebury, raised on one acre of ground 148 bushels of sound corn. This variety is a kind of 12 rowed corn, and yet in one instance there was found to be two ears on one stalk of each variety, 8 rowed and 12 rowed, a circumstance that we never heard of before.

N. C. Tabor's barn in East Montpelier was burned recently, with a quantity of hay and grain and a pair of horses; loss \$2000, small insurance. E. S. Dwinel's trotting horse "Happy John," valued at \$1000, was burned to death, as was a \$400 mare owned by C. S. Page of Morrisville. The fire was incendiary.

The Superintendent of the Eastern Pennsylvania Experimental Farm took the trouble to sow a square rod of chess or "cheat" from which he obtained a peck of nice seed. This was done to disprove the statement still made by some parties that chess will not grow, and is only produced by wheat or some other grain turning into it. He also tried pasturing wheat, but failed to have it turn into chess.

In speaking of the importance of regularly salting cattle the Canada Farmer, among other remarks, makes the following; "We have lately observed many head of stock drooping, rough in the skin, and apparently suffering from some loss of appetite. We had thought that it was entirely owing to the constant irritation from flies and the long continued dry weather. Upon questioning the owners, however, we generally find that periodical salting has been neglected; while our cattle, which have received their regular weekly allowance of salt, appear sleek and healthy."

The latest device for "breaking up" a setting hen is to put a couple of lumps of ice in the nest.

The best mutton is said to come from Rhode Island. The same State raises the best geese and ducks.

Last week a freight train on the Central, ran into a flock of 100 sheep a short distance above Hartland station, killing 22 outright.

California boasts that she has the largest orchard in the world. It is located two miles south of Yuba city, in Sutter county, and consists of over 400 acres.

The Weybridge Farmer's Club held their annual meeting on Monday of last week and elected the following officers:—President, Deacon Samuel James; Vice. Pres., J. B. Cherbino; Secretary, H. B. Hagar.

A barn, with its contents, belonging to Simeon Myers, at Pownal Center, was destroyed by fire last week. The barn contained 10 tons of hay, 100 bushels of corn and a quantity of buckwheat. No insurance.

John McGinn advertises for sale, in the Mauston (Wis.) Star: "Cheap, for cash, a good four-year-old milch cow, warranted to give milk all the year round without having a calf. She came of a cow that never had a calf. Inquire on the premises."

The Argus, speaking of the exciting times at the recent trotting race at East Montpelier, where the usual conduct that has given its meaning to the word "jockeying" was conspicuous, says "As things are going now horse trots will soon be far from high-toned affairs hereabouts."

A wonderful instance of vegetable transmutation is mentioned by a correspondent of the Iowa Homestead. A farmer purchased of a tree peddler fifty different varieties of apples for a large orchard. In a few years these trees resolved themselves into only two kinds.

Mr. George Abbot, of Barre, threshed for W. C. Nye, one hundred and fifty bushels of oats in four hours, and stopped four times, fifteen minutes at a time, making one hundred and fifty bushels in one hundred and eighty minutes. One half of the straw was very coarse, the rest short straw.

A deformed chicken of common breed, the deformity resulting from a broken back, was entered at the Muskingum, (O.) county fair as a Hungarian cock of the "Slavi Magyar breed," just imported, and the sapient judges, after gravely inspecting it, awarded it the first premium over one of the finest poultry shows ever seen in the country.

The milk business along the Harlem Extension railroad has been very prosperous, and has abolished the cheese factory at Danby. The net profits of those who sold their milk during this season have been double the profits of those who took the same quantity to the cheese factory. Nearly two car loads are transported every day over the road. Last week two hundred and eighty-seven cans were shipped between Rutland and Chatham.

Col. Hollister of Los Angeles, Cal., started raising sheep and cattle in a small way, when that state first became the property of the government, and now owns an almond grove covering 700 acres, and over 60,000 almond trees yielding fruit. He has planted, and is successfully growing, 100,000 orange, lemon, and olive trees; had at one time over 150,000 head of sheep and cattle; owns about 100,000 acres of land divided into three ranches. He has recently purchased in Japan 26 bushels of Japan tea seed, and sent over for and obtained two or three Japanese to cultivate it, and expects to meet with great success in this new experiment.

Butter is 95 cents a pound in Colorado.

The tea of red-oak acorns is recommended as a cure for scours in calves.

The nut crop this year is extensive. In addition to a full supply of walnuts, chestnuts and butternuts, there is a heavy yield of beechnuts.

Col. John M. Conolly of Flushing, N. Y., has bought the famous stallion "Blackwood" of Lexington, Ky., paying for him, it is stated on authority, a larger sum than any horse in the United States ever brought before.

John O'Hara of Sheffield, has 16 sheep which have this season yielded him in lambs and wool \$10.67 each. They all had twins, which were sold at about three months old for \$4 a head, and his wool for 45 cents a pound.

Amasa Cummings, of East Montpelier has always raised his own wheat for flour since he began farming. Although 66 years of age, he has never yet purchased a barrel of flour, but has sold many barrels from wheat of his own raising.

The Canada N. H. Reporter says T. J. and A. F. Hoyt of Grafton have sold their yearling colt of the same blood as their trotting stallion, "Defiance," that won the first premium at the New England fair at Lowell, and the state fair at Dover, in the four years old trots, to Samuel Follansbee of Bristol, for \$500. These colts originated from the noted horse "Gen. Lyon."

The product of the sugar-beet experiment at the Massachusetts agricultural college, has been 4000 bushels of beets from five acres. Apparatus has been fitted up on a small scale, for the manufacture of the sugar, of which some of the finest granulated has been produced. The beet (the French sugar-beet) yielded 13 per cent in sugar; much of the nutritive part is left for feed to stock. All that comes from the ground is left to be put again in the ground, thus continually enriching it. Sugar-beet raising is profitable when the beets yield 7 per cent of sugar. President Clark is confident that he can plainly show that beet raising will be a profitable branch of farming.

The Lyndon Union says: "At the last State Fair at St. Johnsbury, Col. Dole noticed some small black pigs on exhibition, which did not take the premium. It being the last day of the Fair, the owner was anxious to dispose of them. The Col. sympathized with the exhibitor, praised the pigs, said they ought to have the premium, &c. To comfort the exhibitor, he said he would buy one at \$5, but he had no way of carrying it home. The exhibitor managed to find out where the Col. lived, carried one to his place and put it in his pen. On arriving home, he was disgusted to find a small black pig in his pen, and a request to remit the \$5, which of course he did. The pig is worth about nine shillings, and the Col. feels rather queer about it." Now, Nutting, was that you? If so, however, we don't think the Col. very badly cheated. Your pigs were good ones, if they were black.

The plant-house at the Mass., agricultural college has been enriched by a present of 67 new plants, mostly tropical, from the government botanical garden at Washington, and presented by Mr. Sanders of that institution. There is a mahogany tree about a foot high in the collection, and an unknown plant has been received from Hayti. The banana plant has a large cluster of its first fruit, which will ripen in about two months, and the sago palm has its first bud, although it has been at the college for four years, and was owned by President Clark some time before.